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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT Conversation with SMA Officer

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



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1. [redacted] on 2 January 1948, Lt. Col. Slavin of the SMA in Karlshorst, who had returned from Moscow a few days previously, stated that it is his belief that Berlin will continue to be occupied and administered by all four powers jointly. The present system has operated passably well heretofore, and there seems to be no reason why it should not continue to do so. He feels that the five state secretariats which were agreed upon in Potsdam must be established for all of Germany. He stated further that any currency reform which occurs will be uniform throughout Germany; the Russians will remove the block on accounts in their zone in order to make this possible.

25X1A [redacted] Comment: A Berlin journalist, member of the Nationalkomitee Freies Deutschland, recently expressed the opinion that the Russians should take over the responsibility for supply and administration of all Berlin, but that the Military Government offices of the western powers were perfectly welcome to remain in Berlin.

2. Karlshorst does not know what the outcome of the present CDU situation will be, particularly since it is faced with a complete lack of properly qualified candidates for the post of party chairman. Slavin expressed the opinion that the only real politicians to be found among the present leaders of the CDU are Conrad Adenauer and Andreas Hermes. ~~letter has~~ apparently regained favor in Russian eyes during the past few weeks. Although Hermes will not be considered for the position of party chairman in the Eastern Zone, he is regarded as a possible chairman for a united CDU in Germany. If he visits Berlin on 18 January according to plan, the Russians intend to receive him at Karlshorst.

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